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00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:11,440

tonight on history's greatest mysteries, an in-depth look at a thrilling recent discovery.

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00:00:11,440 --> 00:00:18,320

As Ernest Shackleton's long-lost ship endurance is finally found, more than a century after

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00:00:18,320 --> 00:00:25,100

it was trapped in polar ice and sank into the frigid waters of the Antarctic.

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00:00:25,100 --> 00:00:31,540

It's a remarkable discovery 10,000 feet below the surface of Antarctica's Waddell Sea.

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00:00:31,540 --> 00:00:35,700

Researchers have discovered the British ship called endurance, the vessel that launched

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00:00:35,700 --> 00:00:40,020

one of the most remarkable stories of survival and determination.

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00:00:40,020 --> 00:00:44,260

That led to one of the most challenging shipwreck searches in history.

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00:00:44,260 --> 00:00:49,660

Fraught with its own peril, the discovery came after years of planning and a daring

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00:00:49,660 --> 00:00:51,860

mission that cost millions of dollars.

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00:00:52,620 --> 00:01:01,500

Shackleton headed one of the most famous expeditions of the 20th century, a mission

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00:01:01,500 --> 00:01:12,940

to cross Antarctica that became an all-out fight for survival.

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00:01:12,940 --> 00:01:18,820

The initial expedition to find the endurance came tantalizingly close to locating it, only

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00:01:18,820 --> 00:01:21,100

to nearly suffer the same fate.

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00:01:21,260 --> 00:01:32,100

I'm Lawrence Fishburne and tonight's mystery, what really happened to Shackleton's lost ship?

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00:01:32,100 --> 00:01:35,140

What secrets can the wreck hold?

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00:01:35,140 --> 00:01:40,620

And could its discovery change our understanding of an expedition that made legends of Shackleton

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00:01:40,620 --> 00:01:42,940

and his brave crew?

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00:01:42,940 --> 00:01:46,100

The full story of Shackleton's lost ice ship now.

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00:01:51,100 --> 00:01:58,100

Antarctica.

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00:01:58,100 --> 00:02:13,940

The most extreme place on Earth.

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00:02:13,940 --> 00:02:18,620

Temperatures reach 100 below.

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00:02:18,660 --> 00:02:26,020

And whips across it at 200 miles per hour.

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00:02:26,020 --> 00:02:30,900

This frozen continent surrounds the South Pole.

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00:02:30,900 --> 00:02:37,740

It's a vast land entirely covered in ice.

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00:02:37,740 --> 00:02:43,020

Somewhere in these frozen seas lies the holy grail of shipwrecks.

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00:02:43,020 --> 00:02:45,260

The endurance.

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00:02:45,260 --> 00:02:55,940

The ship that carried legendary explorer, Sir Ernest Shackleton, South, in 1914.

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00:02:55,940 --> 00:03:04,860

Down here the water is so cold, the wooden ship is likely perfectly preserved.

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00:03:04,860 --> 00:03:15,580

But it's so hard to get to that no one's ever been able to hunt for the wreck, until now.

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00:03:15,580 --> 00:03:25,100

Flying in from across the globe is an international team of ship hunters, explorers and scientists.

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00:03:25,100 --> 00:03:33,900

Two years in the planning and over \$250 million of cutting edge technology make them think

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00:03:33,900 --> 00:03:36,780

they can pull off a world first.

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00:03:36,780 --> 00:03:45,660

If the data that we have for the wreck site is correct, then we'll find it.

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00:03:45,660 --> 00:03:50,700

Maritime archaeologist Mensen Bound is heading up the search.

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00:03:50,700 --> 00:03:55,500

He's got 40 years experience excavating shipwrecks.

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00:03:55,500 --> 00:03:59,660

But finding the endurance is the ultimate challenge.

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00:03:59,660 --> 00:04:04,300

The endurance is, to my mind, the most famous wreck of all time.

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00:04:04,300 --> 00:04:07,740

She's up there with the Titanic.

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00:04:07,740 --> 00:04:15,260

If anybody can find the endurance, it's going to be this expedition.

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00:04:15,260 --> 00:04:20,700

This is the greatest wreck hunt that there's ever been.

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00:04:20,700 --> 00:04:27,900

This expedition will face the same risks and dangers that Shackleton did a century ago.

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00:04:27,900 --> 00:04:32,700

But today's team has come prepared.

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00:04:32,700 --> 00:04:38,460

The RV has the tension. You can release it. It's just going to go under.

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00:04:38,460 --> 00:04:43,900

Steve Santamore leads one of the elite teams of subsea explorers.

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00:04:43,900 --> 00:04:48,540

So our job will be to document the condition of the wreck on the seafloor.

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00:04:48,540 --> 00:04:52,140

Based in Maryland, his team has found missing plane wrecks

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00:04:52,140 --> 00:04:57,180

and most famously, surveyed the Titanic.

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00:04:59,900 --> 00:05:09,180

But hunting Shackleton's wreck is their most challenging mission yet.

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00:05:09,180 --> 00:05:14,860

The ship has not been to the Shackleton location primarily due to, you know, the ice pack

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00:05:14,860 --> 00:05:17,980

and how difficult it is to get here.

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00:05:17,980 --> 00:05:24,460

This is the equivalent of going to Mars and looking for, you know, the wreckage of spacecraft.

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00:05:24,460 --> 00:05:28,140

You know, it's just that remote.

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00:05:28,780 --> 00:05:33,660

To help him search, Steve's got a secret weapon.

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00:05:34,060 --> 00:05:41,020

A purpose-built, remotely operated vehicle, or ROV.

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00:05:41,740 --> 00:05:48,140

This two million dollar bottom weighs in at over 6,000 pounds.

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00:05:48,140 --> 00:05:54,940

It's equipped with deep sea cameras and two articulated titanium arms.

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00:05:54,940 --> 00:06:01,500

It's mission, to dive to the seabed and explore the wreck.

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00:06:01,500 --> 00:06:09,980

And so one of the things that we do, you know, to prepare for the mission is go through, double check all the connections and tighten up hardware.

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00:06:10,780 --> 00:06:14,860

Dave O'Hara from Northern Ireland is Steve's pilot.

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00:06:14,860 --> 00:06:16,860

He's through there.

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00:06:16,860 --> 00:06:18,860

In there.

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00:06:18,860 --> 00:06:25,980

An ex-British Navy engineer, he's been working on robot subs for 12 years.

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00:06:25,980 --> 00:06:29,740

For me personally, it's a bucket list job.

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00:06:29,740 --> 00:06:33,980

The shipwreck side of things, it got me inspired to come and do this for a living.

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00:06:33,980 --> 00:06:37,660

Watching guys find Titanic.

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00:06:37,740 --> 00:06:41,900

Just for the history behind it, the story, the human aspect of it.

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00:06:41,900 --> 00:06:43,900

And I think that's the same with endurance.

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00:06:43,900 --> 00:06:47,900

Okay guys, just let her be. I'm going to start the hydraulics.

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00:06:47,900 --> 00:06:53,420

Dave's confident that he can get the sub 10,000 feet down to the wreck.

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00:06:53,420 --> 00:06:57,420

But first they've got to find it.

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00:06:58,140 --> 00:07:03,420

Fortunately, the team has a big clue to where it could be.

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00:07:04,380 --> 00:07:12,700

To find the exact spot to search, wreck archaeologist Menson Bound is investigating nautical charts and the ship's original log,

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00:07:12,700 --> 00:07:17,420

kept meticulously by Shackleton's captain, Frank Worsley.

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00:07:19,420 --> 00:07:23,420

These record endurance his position on the day she sank.

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00:07:23,420 --> 00:07:27,420

It gives us the coordinates, latitude and the longitude.

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00:07:27,420 --> 00:07:33,420

If we look at the chart, here we have it right here.

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00:07:33,420 --> 00:07:39,420

This is where she sank. This is X marks the spot.

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00:07:39,420 --> 00:07:49,420

Using the data, Menson calculates a target 1200 miles away across the treacherous Weddell Sea.

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00:07:51,420 --> 00:07:55,420

The Weddell Sea is a churning bed of sea ice.

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00:07:55,420 --> 00:08:03,420

This sea ice breaks into pieces and it floats around and it keeps running into each other, throwing up pressure ridges.

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00:08:03,420 --> 00:08:09,420

And you never know when it's going to turn totally solid again.

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00:08:09,420 --> 00:08:15,420

The expedition is also in a race against time.

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00:08:15,420 --> 00:08:19,420

The Weddell Sea is full of ice year round.

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00:08:19,420 --> 00:08:25,420

But as winter approaches, the ocean around the continent freezes over.

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00:08:25,420 --> 00:08:33,420

Impassable sea ice, covering an area one and a half times the size of the United States.

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00:08:39,420 --> 00:08:45,420

The team has a short window to get in and back out, or they'll get stuck in the ice.

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00:08:45,420 --> 00:08:53,420

Anyone going into that area with a ship is putting their ship and their crew in jeopardy.

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00:09:00,420 --> 00:09:09,420

In 1914, two years after the sinking of the Titanic, British explorers Ernest Shackleton heads south.

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00:09:10,420 --> 00:09:16,420

I believe it is in our nature to explore, to reach out into the unknown.

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00:09:16,420 --> 00:09:21,420

The only true failure would be not to explore at all.

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00:09:23,420 --> 00:09:26,420

It's the golden age of polar exploration.

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00:09:26,420 --> 00:09:33,420

Shackleton is full of ambition, seeking glory for himself and his country.

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00:09:34,420 --> 00:09:41,420

He was really driven by the fact that it was one of the last few places on earth that hadn't been touched by man.

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00:09:41,420 --> 00:09:46,420

And he wanted to be one of the first, the first person there.

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00:09:49,420 --> 00:09:58,420

Shackleton's aim, to make history by crossing the entire Antarctic continent, from coast to coast, for the first time.

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00:09:59,420 --> 00:10:04,420

A hundred years ago crossing Antarctica would be more difficult than us going to the moon today.

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00:10:07,420 --> 00:10:15,420

I think it's the nature of man to always see something we haven't seen before, whether it's the moon or the South Pole.

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00:10:19,420 --> 00:10:26,420

Shackleton and his 27 men, they sailed off what we knew of the world.

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00:10:29,420 --> 00:10:32,420

But Shackleton will never even make landfall.

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00:10:33,420 --> 00:10:40,420

Here, at the end of the earth, Shackleton's ship, the endurance, will sink.

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00:10:41,420 --> 00:10:45,420

In a disaster that will capture the world's attention.

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00:10:50,420 --> 00:10:57,420

Fully loaded, the Agullus II finally sets off, ready to take on the Wettel Sea.

103

00:10:59,420 --> 00:11:03,420

So much has gone into this project, so many years of work, so many dreams.

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00:11:04,420 --> 00:11:09,420

It feels really like my whole life has just come down to this moment.

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00:11:11,420 --> 00:11:14,420

Now it's time to put everything to the test.

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00:11:20,420 --> 00:11:27,420

After five days at sea, the expedition to find the ship of legendary explorer, Sir Ernest Shackleton,

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00:11:28,420 --> 00:11:30,420

is making good progress.

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00:11:34,420 --> 00:11:42,420

Now 1500 miles from her starting point, at Penguin Booktut, the crew is zeroing in on the wreck site.

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00:11:46,420 --> 00:11:56,420

On deck, Louisiana native and former Air Force engineer Devin James is part of a second elite team

hunting the 100-year-old wreck.

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00:11:58,420 --> 00:12:01,420

It's his job to look after another critical set of equipment.

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00:12:02,420 --> 00:12:07,420

Two autonomous underwater vehicles, or AUVs.

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00:12:08,420 --> 00:12:12,420

Basically a drone just like an aerial drone, but we use it in the ocean.

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00:12:13,420 --> 00:12:19,420

So this is used all over the world to survey the sea floor without a operator going below the surface.

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00:12:20,420 --> 00:12:21,420

Come and tell you.

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00:12:22,420 --> 00:12:26,420

Also working on the subs is Chad Bonnet. Like Devin, he's ex-military.

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00:12:26,420 --> 00:12:27,420

Forward. Roger.

117

00:12:28,420 --> 00:12:31,420

We haven't dealt with ice conditions like this before.

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00:12:32,420 --> 00:12:38,420

We were handpicked to come onto this job, so there's a lot of pressure to complete the task.

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00:12:39,420 --> 00:12:44,420

Despite the challenges of sending their AUV subs under the ice, Chad's got a good attitude.

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00:12:45,420 --> 00:12:49,420

As long as we're layered up, we're okay because we're from South Louisiana, it's usually hot weather, you know.

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00:12:57,420 --> 00:13:02,420

The team knows where to head, but getting there is tough.

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00:13:05,420 --> 00:13:08,420

The expedition's hopes rest on the Agullus II.

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00:13:12,420 --> 00:13:17,420

Weighing in at 14,000 tons and costing \$170 million.

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00:13:19,420 --> 00:13:23,420

This ship is designed to smash through ice up to three feet thick.

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00:13:27,420 --> 00:13:33,420

A double hull of extra-thick steel protects the Agullus II.

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00:13:36,420 --> 00:13:43,420

And in the engine room, second engineer Mark O'Reilly is pushing her four engines to the limit.

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00:13:44,420 --> 00:13:47,420

These deliver 12,000 horsepower.

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00:13:48,420 --> 00:13:52,420

This is one of two prop shops. 6,000 horsepower available on each.

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00:13:52,420 --> 00:13:57,420

And that will give us enough power to break through one meter of ice at seven miles per hour.

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00:14:13,420 --> 00:14:17,420

The Agullus II is built for the worst conditions on the planet.

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00:14:18,420 --> 00:14:22,420

But even for this beast, hitting ice at speed is bad news.

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00:14:24,420 --> 00:14:26,420

Captain Freddie Lugtello is the ice pilot.

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00:14:27,420 --> 00:14:32,420

Part of the South African crew, he has 15 years experience in the Weddle Sea.

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00:14:33,420 --> 00:14:39,420

If we should hit any sea ice here at 15 knots, it could possibly cause heavy damage to the vessel.

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00:14:40,420 --> 00:14:42,420

So we are continuously looking out.

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00:14:43,420 --> 00:14:49,420

The Titanic famously sank in 1912 because it hit an iceberg at speed.

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00:14:50,420 --> 00:14:53,420

One wrong move could bring this ship to the same fate.

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00:14:55,420 --> 00:15:01,420

But unlike the Titanic, the Agullus II has an arsenal of modern navigational tools.

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00:15:03,420 --> 00:15:05,420

This is us here, and this is our speed vector.

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00:15:06,420 --> 00:15:10,420

And you can see that this iceberg is at a distance of 8.8 miles.

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00:15:12,420 --> 00:15:17,420

Sometimes you could get 100 targets on a radar at a 12-mile range,

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00:15:18,420 --> 00:15:20,420

and you would try to then just skirt as much as you can.

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00:15:22,420 --> 00:15:27,420

To reach the wreck site, the Agullus II has been sailing around the northern edge of the ice pack.

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00:15:28,420 --> 00:15:31,420

She will only head into the thicker ice when she has to.

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00:15:34,420 --> 00:15:39,420

This sea ice is what explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton faced more than 100 years ago.

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00:15:43,420 --> 00:15:47,420

When Shackleton took his ship into the Weddle Sea,

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00:15:48,420 --> 00:15:51,420

he knew there was a tremendous risk that he'd never make it out alive.

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00:15:54,420 --> 00:15:57,420

Caught on camera by photographer Frank Hurley,

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00:15:58,420 --> 00:16:02,420

the endurance picks her way through hundreds of miles of pack ice.

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00:16:04,420 --> 00:16:11,420

But how could the 144-foot wooden ship avoid the fate of the Titanic just two years previously?

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00:16:13,420 --> 00:16:18,420

Wreck archaeologist Mensen Bound is studying the ship's plans.

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00:16:19,420 --> 00:16:21,420

This is the original design for the endurance.

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00:16:22,420 --> 00:16:24,420

She really was a beautiful, beautiful vessel.

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00:16:25,420 --> 00:16:30,420

If you look at her bow, you can see it's got four huge, poking timbers here.

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00:16:31,420 --> 00:16:33,420

That's two times more than any other ship that I know of.

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00:16:35,420 --> 00:16:37,420

Her bow is over four feet thick.

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00:16:37,420 --> 00:16:41,420

The keel, or spine of the ship, is seven feet of solid oak.

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00:16:43,420 --> 00:16:45,420

And to stop her being ripped apart by ice,

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00:16:46,420 --> 00:16:49,420

her hull is cloaked in a wood called Greenheart.

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00:16:50,420 --> 00:16:54,420

So durable and strong that it's heavier than iron.

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00:16:56,420 --> 00:16:59,420

It is extraordinarily hard.

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00:17:00,420 --> 00:17:03,420

It's so hard you cannot even drive a nail into it.

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00:17:03,420 --> 00:17:10,420

But this is what Shackleton needed, because it is resistant to the kind of wear and tear and abrasion

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00:17:11,420 --> 00:17:15,420

that this hull is going to have to withstand once it got into the Antarctic.

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00:17:16,420 --> 00:17:21,420

Shackleton named his ship Endurance after his family motto,

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00:17:22,420 --> 00:17:24,420

By endurance we conquer.

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00:17:25,420 --> 00:17:29,420

And the endurance will need all her strength as she sails further into the ice.

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00:17:34,420 --> 00:17:39,420

While the ice makes getting to the wreck site a massive challenge,

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00:17:41,420 --> 00:17:47,420

these frigid waters are also the reason Shackleton's wooden ship is likely preserved at the bottom of the sea.

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00:17:49,420 --> 00:17:52,420

In warmer seas, marine creatures eat wooden ships,

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00:17:53,420 --> 00:17:56,420

the most destructive, a mollusk, called a shipworm.

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00:17:57,420 --> 00:18:01,420

Shipworm can be incredibly destructive to wooden ships.

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00:18:03,420 --> 00:18:07,420

And they are voracious, they just eat anything and everything, and no time at all,

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00:18:08,420 --> 00:18:11,420

they can be up to two feet long, and they just eat, eat, eat, eat.

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00:18:16,420 --> 00:18:22,420

Recent experiments have revealed that shipworms can't survive in the freezing Antarctic waters.

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00:18:24,420 --> 00:18:32,420

And newly discovered wrecks from Northern Canada prove that icy seas can preserve wooden ships even older than the endurance.

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00:18:34,420 --> 00:18:40,420

But even if it's well preserved, the endurance rests 10,000 feet down,

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00:18:41,420 --> 00:18:46,420

and right now the sea there is entirely frozen over.

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00:18:53,420 --> 00:18:56,420

The crew is now beyond the reach of helicopter rescue.

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00:18:57,420 --> 00:19:01,420

If something goes wrong, they're on their own.

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00:19:08,420 --> 00:19:15,420

They've reached the west side of the Weddell Sea, as close as they can get to the wreck site in open water.

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00:19:16,420 --> 00:19:20,420

Beyond their position is pack ice up to 16 feet thick.

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00:19:27,420 --> 00:19:32,420

Chad and Devon want to test their AUV subs under a nearby ice flow.

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00:19:33,420 --> 00:19:36,420

We'll be going to sea trials where we're actually going to launch the AUV.

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00:19:37,420 --> 00:19:40,420

We'll go ahead and release it, send it underwater.

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00:19:41,420 --> 00:19:48,420

At the wreck site, the AUVs will dive down and use sonar to scan the seabed for the wreck.

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00:19:49,420 --> 00:19:54,420

It may sound simple, but even testing the AUVs like this is risky.

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00:19:54,420 --> 00:19:57,420

They've never been under Antarctic ice.

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00:19:58,420 --> 00:20:02,420

AUV team leader Channing Thomas knows the dangers.

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00:20:03,420 --> 00:20:05,420

There is a lot of pressure.

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00:20:06,420 --> 00:20:09,420

If this works, it's going to be extraordinary.

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00:20:11,420 --> 00:20:19,420

Two years of planning and tens of millions of dollars rests on the AUV sub doing its job right.

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00:20:20,420 --> 00:20:23,420

We're being extra cautious before we put it in the water.

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00:20:24,420 --> 00:20:26,420

Once we launch it, there's no turning back.

195

00:20:29,420 --> 00:20:31,420

Alright, let's go get us a successful launch.

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00:20:43,420 --> 00:20:45,420

Alright, crank up under Alex.

197

00:20:50,420 --> 00:20:53,420

Yeah, we definitely don't see this in the Gulf of Mexico.

198

00:20:54,420 --> 00:20:56,420

Leave me in the water and say good, Channing.

199

00:21:03,420 --> 00:21:04,420

Hey, you be in the water?

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00:21:04,420 --> 00:21:05,420

Like a torpedo.

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00:21:07,420 --> 00:21:09,420

Alright, looking good.

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00:21:10,420 --> 00:21:11,420

All systems are go.

203

00:21:15,420 --> 00:21:17,420

Stay back here and monitor.

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00:21:17,420 --> 00:21:19,420

Rods, is that ready to dive?

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00:21:21,420 --> 00:21:23,420

Alright, 30 seconds till it dies.

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00:21:37,420 --> 00:21:38,420

Come on, cowboy.

207

00:21:43,420 --> 00:21:44,420

Good job, boy!

208

00:21:48,420 --> 00:21:50,420

It's a great relief to finally get it under.

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00:21:50,420 --> 00:21:52,420

We're on our first mission.

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00:21:56,420 --> 00:21:58,420

Now we can pull forward a little more.

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00:21:58,420 --> 00:22:00,420

The AUV is getting down 300 meters right now.

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00:22:02,420 --> 00:22:04,420

While the team tracks the AUV sub,

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00:22:06,420 --> 00:22:10,420

expedition archaeologist Mensen Bound investigates how Shackleton's ship

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00:22:10,420 --> 00:22:14,420

ended up on this side of the Weddell Sea a century ago.

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00:22:14,420 --> 00:22:17,420

Here he is coming down the coast of the Weddell Sea

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00:22:17,420 --> 00:22:20,420

and all the while working his way south-south.

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00:22:20,420 --> 00:22:25,420

But as he's going, the ice is becoming more and more dense and impenetrable

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00:22:25,420 --> 00:22:27,420

until eventually he gets all the way down here.

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00:22:28,420 --> 00:22:30,420

And right here is where he becomes beset.

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00:22:32,420 --> 00:22:35,420

Just 60 miles from the south coast of the Weddell Sea,

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00:22:35,420 --> 00:22:38,420

the ice pack freezes solid around Shackleton's ship.

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00:22:39,420 --> 00:22:41,420

The endurance is trapped.

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00:22:45,420 --> 00:22:49,420

The temperature suddenly dropped from 20 degrees above zero to 20 degrees below.

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00:22:49,420 --> 00:22:52,420

The whole sea froze over and we froze in with it.

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00:22:52,420 --> 00:22:55,420

Of course, we had no explosive to blast our way out,

226

00:22:55,420 --> 00:22:57,420

but we just had picks and shovels.

227

00:22:59,420 --> 00:23:02,420

For 40 hours, his men fight desperately,

228

00:23:02,420 --> 00:23:04,420

but they can't free her from the ice.

229

00:23:07,420 --> 00:23:09,420

The ice pack is now completely frozen.

230

00:23:09,420 --> 00:23:11,420

The ice pack is now completely frozen.

231

00:23:11,420 --> 00:23:15,420

And at that moment, Shackleton's heart sank because he knew,

232

00:23:15,420 --> 00:23:17,420

because it was so late in the season,

233

00:23:17,420 --> 00:23:19,420

that he was frozen in place for winter.

234

00:23:21,420 --> 00:23:24,420

And in the six-month-long Antarctic winter,

235

00:23:24,420 --> 00:23:27,420

just staying alive is nearly impossible.

236

00:23:29,420 --> 00:23:31,420

Everything is pushing against you.

237

00:23:31,420 --> 00:23:33,420

It's trying to kill you.

238

00:23:33,420 --> 00:23:35,420

It's trying to kill you.

239

00:23:35,420 --> 00:23:37,420

It's trying to kill you.

240

00:23:37,420 --> 00:23:39,420

It's trying to kill you.

241

00:23:39,420 --> 00:23:41,420

It's trying to kill you.

242

00:23:41,420 --> 00:23:43,420

That cold is physically painful.

243

00:23:44,420 --> 00:23:46,420

Any piece of exposed skin,

244

00:23:46,420 --> 00:23:49,420

just a little bit of a gap in your clothing,

245

00:23:49,420 --> 00:23:51,420

that's like somebody cutting your face with a knife.

246

00:23:52,420 --> 00:23:54,420

The winds,

247

00:23:54,420 --> 00:23:56,420

unrelenting,

248

00:23:56,420 --> 00:23:59,420

and the snow, driven like needles into your face.

249

00:24:02,420 --> 00:24:04,420

I was out South Pole. It was so cold.

250

00:24:04,420 --> 00:24:07,420

I removed my glove for just about a minute,

251

00:24:07,420 --> 00:24:09,420

maybe a minute and 20 seconds,

252

00:24:09,420 --> 00:24:11,420

and my thumb froze solid.

253

00:24:11,420 --> 00:24:13,420

And you think about Shackleton and his men

254

00:24:13,420 --> 00:24:16,420

out there in wool and cotton

255

00:24:16,420 --> 00:24:19,420

and things that weren't really designed for that environment.

256

00:24:22,420 --> 00:24:25,420

It just reminds me how tough those men were.

257

00:24:30,420 --> 00:24:32,420

The endurance is completely stuck,

258

00:24:32,420 --> 00:24:36,420

but she's 550 miles from where she will finally sink.

259

00:24:37,420 --> 00:24:39,420

So how did she get there?

260

00:24:42,420 --> 00:24:45,420

Turns out the endurance is still on the move

261

00:24:46,420 --> 00:24:49,420

because the ice is on the move.

262

00:24:50,420 --> 00:24:52,420

While it may look like a land mass,

263

00:24:52,420 --> 00:24:54,420

it's floating on water.

264

00:24:56,420 --> 00:24:58,420

That means whatever the water is doing,

265

00:24:58,420 --> 00:25:00,420

whatever the wind is doing,

266

00:25:00,420 --> 00:25:02,420

that affects that surface.

267

00:25:03,420 --> 00:25:06,420

Strong currents and winds in the Weddell Sea

268

00:25:06,420 --> 00:25:08,420

spin the entire ice pack

269

00:25:08,420 --> 00:25:10,420

in a giant clockwise rotation.

270

00:25:13,420 --> 00:25:16,420

For 10 months, the endurance moves with the ice.

271

00:25:22,420 --> 00:25:25,420

This is the route that the endurance was carried.

272

00:25:26,420 --> 00:25:30,420

We can follow the route very precisely.

273

00:25:32,420 --> 00:25:34,420

The crew was trapped,

274

00:25:34,420 --> 00:25:38,420

but they had reason to believe they would escape.

275

00:25:38,420 --> 00:25:40,420

Several years before, another ship,

276

00:25:40,420 --> 00:25:42,420

a ship called the Deutschland,

277

00:25:42,420 --> 00:25:44,420

had also become beset down here.

278

00:25:44,420 --> 00:25:48,420

Because the Deutschland was eventually released from the ice,

279

00:25:48,420 --> 00:25:50,420

the people on the endurance

280

00:25:50,420 --> 00:25:52,420

thought the same thing would happen to them.

281

00:25:56,420 --> 00:25:59,420

Out on deck in the early hours of the morning,

282

00:25:59,420 --> 00:26:03,420

the team is waiting for their AUP sub to return from its test run.

283

00:26:04,420 --> 00:26:06,420

But there's a problem.

284

00:26:06,420 --> 00:26:08,420

Oh, what the hell's going on?

285

00:26:10,420 --> 00:26:12,420

They've lost all contact

286

00:26:12,420 --> 00:26:15,420

with their brand new multi-million dollar sum.

287

00:26:18,420 --> 00:26:20,420

Everything started to go well.

288

00:26:20,420 --> 00:26:23,420

We were gaining confidence and...

289

00:26:24,420 --> 00:26:26,420

and then we lost it.

290

00:26:27,420 --> 00:26:31,420

When we saw that it did not surface in front of us

291

00:26:31,420 --> 00:26:34,420

or to either side of us,

292

00:26:34,420 --> 00:26:37,420

we figured it had to be in the ice.

293

00:26:39,420 --> 00:26:41,420

The team needs to move fast.

294

00:26:42,420 --> 00:26:45,420

The AUV has 54 hours of battery.

295

00:26:45,420 --> 00:26:48,420

If the battery dies, they'll never get it back.

296

00:26:49,420 --> 00:26:52,420

That's a multi-million dollar loss they can't take.

297

00:26:53,420 --> 00:26:55,420

We're gonna search that area right there.

298

00:26:56,420 --> 00:26:59,420

The AUV has two flashers on it.

299

00:26:59,420 --> 00:27:03,420

And the general idea is to get the ROV down deep,

300

00:27:03,420 --> 00:27:06,420

turn off all our lights, and hopefully see those beacons.

301

00:27:08,420 --> 00:27:10,420

Right now, I'm very worried.

302

00:27:10,420 --> 00:27:15,420

From day one, we recognized that our nemesis was going to be the ice pack.

303

00:27:15,420 --> 00:27:17,420

You know, just as it was Shackleton's,

304

00:27:17,420 --> 00:27:19,420

so was it going to be ours.

305

00:27:19,420 --> 00:27:22,420

And, hey, what? It's proved to be just that.

306

00:27:29,420 --> 00:27:31,420

After hours of tension,

307

00:27:31,420 --> 00:27:36,420

AUV operator Blake Howard finally detects a signal from the missing sub.

308

00:27:43,420 --> 00:27:47,420

The sub is within a mile of the ship, somewhere under the ice.

309

00:27:49,420 --> 00:27:54,420

The first ping when it actually did come through was a great feeling for everybody.

310

00:27:54,420 --> 00:27:58,420

It was extremely exciting for her to actually talk back to us,

311

00:27:58,420 --> 00:28:01,420

and it gave us a direction to head towards.

312

00:28:02,420 --> 00:28:07,420

The team continues pinging the sub to triangulate its location.

313

00:28:14,420 --> 00:28:17,420

Then, they pick up a response.

314

00:28:17,420 --> 00:28:22,420

It's almost definitely a hit, so it's got to be within range.

315

00:28:24,420 --> 00:28:26,420

Compared to the first two hours of gunfire.

316

00:28:26,420 --> 00:28:28,420

Yes, sir. Exactly right.

317

00:28:28,420 --> 00:28:30,420

So we're getting there.

318

00:28:37,420 --> 00:28:41,420

What are we looking at? Three meters to seven meters, Captain?

319

00:28:41,420 --> 00:28:42,420

Yeah.

320

00:28:42,420 --> 00:28:48,420

To reach the sub, the Agullus must get closer, penetrating a 20-foot thick ice wall.

321

00:28:48,420 --> 00:28:54,420

That's well beyond what their ship is built to break, but they have no choice.

322

00:29:07,420 --> 00:29:10,420

The Agullus 2 doesn't ram the ice.

323

00:29:10,420 --> 00:29:12,420

It rides up onto the ice.

324

00:29:13,420 --> 00:29:19,420

And under the weight of the 14,000-ton ship, the ice flow starts to break apart.

325

00:29:24,420 --> 00:29:30,420

The AUV is about here, about 200 meters away.

326

00:29:40,420 --> 00:29:45,420

Each strike releases colossal ice chunks bigger than the size of a house.

327

00:29:46,420 --> 00:29:53,420

By the time they're done, the ship smashed away 114 football fields worth of ice.

328

00:29:57,420 --> 00:29:59,420

We're going to launch the AUV.

329

00:29:59,420 --> 00:30:02,420

They're going to go in and locate it, and then basically they're going to drag her out.

330

00:30:11,420 --> 00:30:18,420

Across the ship, all eyes are glued to the live feed.

331

00:30:26,420 --> 00:30:30,420

Right now we are at six and a half meters.

332

00:30:34,420 --> 00:30:35,420

In under the ice.

333

00:30:35,420 --> 00:30:36,420

Hey, is that an AUV?

334

00:30:36,420 --> 00:30:37,420

That looks fun.

335

00:30:37,420 --> 00:30:39,420

We've got the AUV visual.

336

00:30:43,420 --> 00:30:46,420

Binding the AUV is a huge relief.

337

00:30:48,420 --> 00:30:50,420

But now they need to bring it out.

338

00:30:51,420 --> 00:30:56,420

You can see the end of the AUV with the prop, so it's definitely in a crack.

339

00:31:00,420 --> 00:31:03,420

Dave has to grab the AUV with the robot arm.

340

00:31:04,420 --> 00:31:08,420

Alright, so you're pretty much going to have to fly me into it.

341

00:31:14,420 --> 00:31:15,420

Come on, Bubba.

342

00:31:18,420 --> 00:31:20,420

Slow, slow, slow, slow, slow.

343

00:31:20,420 --> 00:31:21,420

Slow, slow.

344

00:31:32,420 --> 00:31:35,420

As soon as we started to move, the fish dropped away below us.

345

00:31:35,420 --> 00:31:37,420

We've got to go chase the fish down.

346

00:31:40,420 --> 00:31:43,420

I think getting back in there, going to try again.

347

00:31:51,420 --> 00:32:18,420

At this depth, the weight of water pressing down on the AUV is equivalent to two jumbo jets.

348

00:32:19,420 --> 00:32:22,420

Pilot Dave O'Hara is finding the fishing at this depth.

349

00:32:23,420 --> 00:32:26,420

Ah, is far from easy.

350

00:32:39,420 --> 00:32:42,420

The hook has to hold.

351

00:32:43,420 --> 00:32:48,420

Sorry, looks like we're starting to take tension.

352

00:32:50,420 --> 00:32:51,420

Yeah, copy.

353

00:32:51,420 --> 00:32:56,420

You could probably get the bridge to start moving real slowly forward now, I'm in.

354

00:32:58,420 --> 00:33:03,420

After four days, the AUV is finally in hand and on the way up.

355

00:33:13,420 --> 00:33:16,420

Fish along the AUV.

356

00:33:20,420 --> 00:33:21,420

You got to hold it?

357

00:33:21,420 --> 00:33:22,420

Yup.

358

00:33:22,420 --> 00:33:23,420

Alright, back down a little bit.

359

00:33:25,420 --> 00:33:27,420

That's cold, buddy.

360

00:33:29,420 --> 00:33:33,420

After a very close call, the AUV is safe.

361

00:33:37,420 --> 00:33:39,420

Alright, coming up easy.

362

00:33:43,420 --> 00:33:44,420

We're good.

363

00:33:48,420 --> 00:33:49,420

Got it, pal.

364

00:33:50,420 --> 00:33:51,420

That's it.

365

00:33:51,420 --> 00:33:53,420

I'm glad to have it on board.

366

00:33:55,420 --> 00:34:02,420

It's been a rough four or five days, so it'll be nice to actually get a full night's sleep instead of a few hours here and there.

367

00:34:04,420 --> 00:34:09,420

With the critical gear now on board, the hunt for the wreck is back on.

368

00:34:09,420 --> 00:34:11,420

The team can now press ahead.

369

00:34:26,420 --> 00:34:30,420

After a near disaster, the team can move forward again.

370

00:34:31,420 --> 00:34:35,420

But there's still 230 miles from where Shackleton's ship went down.

371

00:34:36,420 --> 00:34:41,420

And in that area, the sea is still entirely covered in ice.

372

00:34:44,420 --> 00:34:51,420

Shackleton and his ship drifted into this northwestern part of the Weddell Sea in October 1915.

373

00:34:54,420 --> 00:34:59,420

For ten long months, they'd been locked in the ice in a bitter struggle for survival.

374

00:35:00,420 --> 00:35:02,420

It's so damn cold.

375

00:35:03,420 --> 00:35:09,420

If you don't have an elaborate safety net of equipment, you'll die.

376

00:35:11,420 --> 00:35:14,420

Shackleton's only safety net is his ship.

377

00:35:14,420 --> 00:35:18,420

But now the mounting pressure in the ice is breaking it apart.

378

00:35:20,420 --> 00:35:21,420

They're in the ship.

379

00:35:21,420 --> 00:35:24,420

They can hear this ice moving against the ship.

380

00:35:24,420 --> 00:35:26,420

You hear the creaking of the ship.

381

00:35:26,420 --> 00:35:30,420

You hear the pressure on the joints.

382

00:35:30,420 --> 00:35:34,420

You never know if the ship's just going to break apart.

383

00:35:36,420 --> 00:35:38,420

The timbers began to crack and groan.

384

00:35:39,420 --> 00:35:43,420

It was there like heavy fireworks and blasting of guns.

385

00:35:43,420 --> 00:36:00,420

The sea, the pack ice move in and just squeeze the life out of that boat.

386

00:36:01,420 --> 00:36:08,420

It must have been so trying and so depressing.

387

00:36:09,420 --> 00:36:14,420

Mother Nature overwhelms the mighty endurance.

388

00:36:16,420 --> 00:36:21,420

Finally, Shackleton gives the order to abandon ship.

389

00:36:24,420 --> 00:36:34,420

Their only hope was to take everything off that ship that they needed and put it on their rescue boats and then switch into survival mode.

390

00:36:35,420 --> 00:36:43,420

The 28 men and 49 dogs can only watch as the endurance is overwhelmed.

391

00:36:47,420 --> 00:36:53,420

I can only imagine what it was like for him when he sat there and stood on the ice and watched it just slowly implode.

392

00:36:56,420 --> 00:37:00,420

Just a piece of his heart and soul would probably went down with that ship when it went.

393

00:37:05,420 --> 00:37:08,420

The ship disappears beneath the surface.

394

00:37:13,420 --> 00:37:16,420

Shackleton and his men are truly alone.

395

00:37:17,420 --> 00:37:24,420

I think they're much more lonely than I was on Apollo 13 because I had communication with home.

396

00:37:25,420 --> 00:37:31,420

Shackleton, he didn't have a radio, he didn't have wifi, he didn't have a cell phone.

397

00:37:32,420 --> 00:37:33,420

He was alone.

398

00:37:36,420 --> 00:37:44,420

Shackleton's dream of becoming the first man to cross Antarctica is ultimately crushed along with his ship.

399

00:37:48,420 --> 00:37:52,420

This is where his real battle for survival begins.

400

00:37:53,420 --> 00:38:05,420

Back on the Agullus II, Mensen searches the records. He believes these hold the secret to understanding how the ship sank.

401

00:38:08,420 --> 00:38:17,420

You see in this picture here, the stern rose up 45 degrees, the bow went even further down and then she just slid and was gone in minutes.

402

00:38:18,420 --> 00:38:32,420

All this clutter that you see in this picture here, all these masts and yards, all that was still attached to the ship when it went down and that would have imposed an incredible drag on the sinking ship.

403

00:38:32,420 --> 00:38:36,420

That would have kept her upright and would to some extent have slowed her down.

404

00:38:36,420 --> 00:38:44,420

As Mensen bound reviews records about the endurance, suddenly there's another crisis aboard the Agullus II.

405

00:38:47,420 --> 00:38:49,420

The ship is sinking.

406

00:38:57,420 --> 00:38:58,420

The port is gone.

407

00:38:59,420 --> 00:39:15,420

While rescuing the AUB sub, a critical part of the underwater robot has imploded under the extreme pressures 10,000 feet below the surface.

408

00:39:15,420 --> 00:39:20,420

The robot's electronic brain is now mangled metal.

409

00:39:21,420 --> 00:39:33,420

We've had a catastrophic failure. We don't have the electronic to rebuild the ROV. I don't know what to say really. I just don't.

410

00:39:34,420 --> 00:39:43,420

The aluminum pod was designed to withstand pressure nearly three miles below the surface.

411

00:39:43,420 --> 00:39:49,420

But Steve thinks the combination of extreme cold and a material flaw has caused it to be crushed.

412

00:39:49,420 --> 00:39:58,420

This is what we found. One half of the bottle has pancaked into the other half of the bottle. There were quite substantial electronics and they've been entirely crushed.

413

00:39:59,420 --> 00:40:06,420

This is the first time in my career that I've ever seen this firsthand. This is an example of what hydraulic pressure can do.

414

00:40:08,420 --> 00:40:12,420

It's a bitter blow for expedition archaeologist Mensen bound.

415

00:40:12,420 --> 00:40:20,420

The worst possible news, I mean, to lose our electronics like that, there is no replacement.

416

00:40:20,420 --> 00:40:24,420

We can't fly in spare parts. There's nothing we can do.

417

00:40:24,420 --> 00:40:30,420

This is what I was going to use to study the wreck, really eyeball to eyeball with the wreck.

418

00:40:41,420 --> 00:40:48,420

The hunt for Shackleton's endurance is stalled thanks to equipment failure. And there's a new problem.

419

00:40:49,420 --> 00:40:55,420

The bridge learns their closest route to the wreck site is now totally blocked by ice.

420

00:40:57,420 --> 00:41:05,420

Analyzing daily satellite photographs, ice pilot Freddie Luke Tellum is hunting for another way in.

421

00:41:05,420 --> 00:41:11,420

We can actually approach the search site coming right around all the ice and approaching it from the southeast.

422

00:41:11,420 --> 00:41:15,420

With a bit of luck, we can be cautiously optimistic.

423

00:41:16,420 --> 00:41:24,420

The new plan is to go the long way around, skirt the pack ice and then head toward the wreck site.

424

00:41:24,420 --> 00:41:31,420

I'm excited about it. Can't beat the smile off my face right about now, you know, finally getting there.

425

00:41:33,420 --> 00:41:44,420

To be in the same area where he was at and to finally locate that ship is just an excitement that I really can't explain.

426

00:41:45,420 --> 00:41:49,420

Finding Shackleton's ship is the ultimate goal of this expedition.

427

00:41:52,420 --> 00:42:00,420

But 100 years ago, losing the endurance was just the start of a journey that would make Ernest Shackleton a legend.

428

00:42:06,420 --> 00:42:11,420

Stranded on the ice, Shackleton's men face impossible odds.

429

00:42:11,420 --> 00:42:15,420

But they have blind faith in the man they call the boss.

430

00:42:16,420 --> 00:42:25,420

There's this classic quote and to paraphrase it, when the chips are down and all hope is gone, get down on your knees and pray for Shackleton.

431

00:42:27,420 --> 00:42:32,420

Shackleton orders his men to march for land 200 miles across the ice.

432

00:42:32,420 --> 00:42:44,420

Shackleton has these massive sleds with full wooden boats on them loaded with supplies.

433

00:42:47,420 --> 00:42:59,420

And you could come up to a massive pressure ridge, blocks of ice as big as semi-trucks that are shoved up into the air 10, 15, 20 feet.

434

00:42:59,420 --> 00:43:03,420

And so as you're approaching it, it basically is a wall of ice.

435

00:43:05,420 --> 00:43:10,420

I mean, I don't like to say things that are impossible, but I don't know how they would get over that stuff.

436

00:43:12,420 --> 00:43:15,420

The men cover only nine miles of pack ice in a week.

437

00:43:17,420 --> 00:43:21,420

Shackleton realizes reaching land is impossible.

438

00:43:22,420 --> 00:43:26,420

To make matters worse, they're slowly starving to death.

439

00:43:27,420 --> 00:43:34,420

As food supplies run out, they're forced to eat the only things that brought them joy in the wilderness, their dogs.

440

00:43:36,420 --> 00:43:42,420

The companionship that the dogs provided the team was quite significant.

441

00:43:43,420 --> 00:43:55,420

That moment must have been hard on an emotional point, but it was also a mirror of how extended they were and how precarious life was.

442

00:43:56,420 --> 00:44:00,420

If you're shooting your dogs, you're on the down and outs.

443

00:44:05,420 --> 00:44:13,420

Then, as the ice they're on drifts closer to the open ocean, it starts to break apart beneath them.

444

00:44:13,420 --> 00:44:26,420

And they have to rush onto their boats. They have to throw their things on their boats.

445

00:44:27,420 --> 00:44:30,420

They have to get into these boats with everything they need to survive.

446

00:44:31,420 --> 00:44:38,420

They have no choice but to go from relative safety to basically certain death.

447

00:44:38,420 --> 00:44:45,420

Shackleton has finally left the ice that's trapped him for 15 months.

448

00:44:46,420 --> 00:44:51,420

But now he faces a new danger, the open, weddle sea.

449

00:44:56,420 --> 00:45:04,420

Even today, this sea is nearly impossible to navigate, as the crew of the Agullus II is finding out.

450

00:45:05,420 --> 00:45:12,420

She's stuck in the ice, just like Shackleton's ship.

451

00:45:16,420 --> 00:45:18,420

We're stuck. We're in a whiteout.

452

00:45:19,420 --> 00:45:26,420

The ice is well over three meters thick, possibly even as much as five, and we're way, way below zero.

453

00:45:27,420 --> 00:45:35,420

In the early hours of the morning, the ship was brought to a standstill by impenetrable fog.

454

00:45:36,420 --> 00:45:39,420

The ice moved in around her and froze her in.

455

00:45:43,420 --> 00:45:47,420

If the temperature drops further, the ice could trap the crew for days,

456

00:45:48,420 --> 00:45:51,420

and the harsh Antarctic winter is already barreling down on them.

457

00:45:52,420 --> 00:45:54,420

But Devon's got an idea.

458

00:45:54,420 --> 00:45:57,420

Well, we could do like Shackleton did on the endurance when they got stuck in the ice

459

00:45:58,420 --> 00:46:02,420

and had the whole crew run from one side of the vessel to the other together to rock the ship free.

460

00:46:06,420 --> 00:46:11,420

Instead of using Shackleton's method, Captain Bendu tries a different solution,

461

00:46:13,420 --> 00:46:18,420

shifting a 40-ton container of fuel using his crane.

462

00:46:18,420 --> 00:46:29,420

We use the heavy weights to create a lever for the ship to heel or lift or to start.

463

00:46:49,420 --> 00:46:51,420

Sounds like we're moving again.

464

00:46:52,420 --> 00:46:56,420

You can hear the distinct difference in the sound here.

465

00:46:57,420 --> 00:47:02,420

That's definitely ice scraping alongside the vessel as we're moving forward.

466

00:47:02,420 --> 00:47:09,420

A century ago, Shackleton wasn't so lucky.

467

00:47:10,420 --> 00:47:18,420

When he and his men are forced onto lifeboats, they have to battle freezing winds and ice storms on the open ocean.

468

00:47:18,420 --> 00:47:25,420

Shackleton sets out for a tiny island 60 miles away. It's his final hope.

469

00:47:26,420 --> 00:47:32,420

On the seventh day at sea and barely alive, they miraculously spot land.

470

00:47:33,420 --> 00:47:38,420

The Shackleton's been in the ocean for a long time.

471

00:47:38,420 --> 00:47:40,420

It's his final hope.

472

00:47:42,420 --> 00:47:47,420

On the seventh day at sea and barely alive, they miraculously spot land.

473

00:47:48,420 --> 00:47:57,420

And when they saw a lift in the island, everybody cheered and we pulled as hard as we could to make our landing.

474

00:47:59,420 --> 00:48:03,420

If I was a weird sort of euphoria because they hadn't made it home,

475

00:48:03,420 --> 00:48:07,420

they had made it onto an inhospitable rock.

476

00:48:08,420 --> 00:48:13,420

The first night there, what was left of there, tents were just shredded in the wind.

477

00:48:14,420 --> 00:48:18,420

Humans were not meant to be there. The whalers didn't even come by there.

478

00:48:21,420 --> 00:48:24,420

They are on a tiny, storm-battered pinprick of a rock.

479

00:48:26,420 --> 00:48:32,420

Of course, food was very short. We had very little except a little seal and penguin whenever they came up.

480

00:48:33,420 --> 00:48:39,420

Shackleton knew the men could not survive. Conditions would only get worse. He had to get help.

481

00:48:40,420 --> 00:48:44,420

And he knew he had to go as quick as possible.

482

00:48:45,420 --> 00:48:49,420

But the only way out is across the most dangerous ocean on the planet.

483

00:48:49,420 --> 00:48:51,420

The Shackleton

484

00:49:01,420 --> 00:49:07,420

Five hundred seven days after he was first trapped by ice, Shackleton begins the perilous journey that will make him a legend.

485

00:49:09,420 --> 00:49:16,420

Taking only five men, two barrels of water and four weeks of food rations, he launches their largest light boat.

486

00:49:17,420 --> 00:49:23,420

There's a picture taken by Hurley with a little brownie camera with a little camera he had.

487

00:49:24,420 --> 00:49:27,420

That picture scares the bejesus out of me.

488

00:49:28,420 --> 00:49:36,420

This tiny speck of a boat, them all waving bravely at them as if to give them encouragement.

489

00:49:38,420 --> 00:49:43,420

Most of them must have felt they're never going to make it and we're never going to be saved.

490

00:49:47,420 --> 00:49:54,420

Shackleton's plan is to head to the island of South Georgia, 800 miles across the Southern Ocean.

491

00:49:55,420 --> 00:50:01,420

The Southern Ocean is probably one of the most treacherous bodies of water on this planet.

492

00:50:03,420 --> 00:50:09,420

It's not uncommon to have winds in this 50, 60, 70 mile an hour swells up to 100 foot.

493

00:50:10,420 --> 00:50:15,420

The water temperature is just a little above freezing. It can sink a vessel in seconds.

494

00:50:17,420 --> 00:50:26,420

It's like going up a hill or a mountain and you go up and up and up and then you reach the top and then you go down and you skid down.

495

00:50:30,420 --> 00:50:39,420

The odds are stacked against them. But Shackleton knows if he doesn't make it to land, all his men will perish.

496

00:50:40,420 --> 00:50:46,420

He finally spots the island of South Georgia.

497

00:50:47,420 --> 00:50:58,420

They made it. They had made the toughest crossing in the world in a vessel never made that crossing before. There was a sense of euphoria.

498

00:50:59,420 --> 00:51:09,420

From his landing point at King Harkin Bay, the closest settlement is a whaling station 30 miles to the east.

499

00:51:11,420 --> 00:51:15,420

But blocking his path now is a towering mountain range.

500

00:51:16,420 --> 00:51:31,420

The mountains were covered with snow and ice. And to get some sort of traction on the snow, they took nails out of the boat and pounded them through the bottom of the shoe.

501

00:51:32,420 --> 00:51:47,420

After climbing for 36 hours, Shackleton finally limps into civilization.

502

00:51:48,420 --> 00:52:03,420

When Shackleton told his story of what they'd been through, no one at the whaling station, they couldn't believe it. It was every step of this story was beyond belief.

503

00:52:06,420 --> 00:52:12,420

But of course, if it wasn't over for Shackleton then, he had to go back and save the people on Elephant Island.

504

00:52:17,420 --> 00:52:22,420

This is the point where she went down.

505

00:52:27,420 --> 00:52:37,420

The Agullus II has finally broken through to the exact coordinates of the Shackleton.

506

00:52:37,420 --> 00:52:42,420

It's a major achievement.

507

00:52:45,420 --> 00:52:50,420

Only a handful of ships have ever been here.

508

00:52:50,420 --> 00:52:57,420

The Agullus II has finally broken through to the exact coordinates of the Endurance wreck site.

509

00:52:57,420 --> 00:53:04,420

It feels great as up on the bridge to late. I only got two hours sleep, I'm shattered, but at the same time I'm really happy. But we still got to find it.

510

00:53:04,420 --> 00:53:10,420

To actually be here and to be able to find it, I'm really happy.

511

00:53:10,420 --> 00:53:15,420

I'm really happy.

512

00:53:15,420 --> 00:53:20,420

I'm really happy.

513

00:53:20,420 --> 00:53:25,420

I'm really happy. But we still got to find it.

514

00:53:25,420 --> 00:53:32,420

To actually be here and able to be part of the search is very exciting. I'm ready for it.

515

00:53:35,420 --> 00:53:40,420

We're going to launch from where we're at, all the way down to 3,000 meters to the bottom.

516

00:53:40,420 --> 00:53:45,420

Hopefully everything works well according to plan and we'll see what happens.

517

00:53:50,420 --> 00:53:58,420

Existing scans reveal that the Agullus II is floating above a vast underwater plane.

518

00:53:58,420 --> 00:54:06,420

Here the seafloor plunges down 40 times the height of Niagara Falls to a depth of 10,000 feet.

519

00:54:06,420 --> 00:54:16,420

This is the deepest zone of the Weddell Sea and the crew believes this plane is the final resting ground of Shackleton's ship.

520

00:54:21,420 --> 00:54:34,420

10,000 feet down, somewhere in these icy depths lie the remains of Shackleton's ship.

521

00:54:34,420 --> 00:54:40,420

Remarkably, the water at the seafloor is below 32 degrees.

522

00:54:40,420 --> 00:54:45,420

It doesn't freeze solid because of the vast pressures at depth.

523

00:54:45,420 --> 00:54:52,420

The depth combined with the super cold water, any bacterial activity will be slowed down.

524

00:54:52,420 --> 00:54:56,420

This is all pretty good news for the preservation of the endurance.

525

00:54:59,420 --> 00:55:05,420

All they've got to do now is launch the AUB sub to hunt it down.

526

00:55:16,420 --> 00:55:21,420

The propellers bite and the AUB dives.

527

00:55:26,420 --> 00:55:33,420

That was a successful launch for the first mission to search for the endurance.

528

00:55:33,420 --> 00:55:39,420

If all goes well on the mission plan we should be recovering in about 42, 43 hours.

529

00:55:39,420 --> 00:55:47,420

Everything's looking good at the moment and we're going to keep our fingers crossed, keep thinking positive and keep pushing forward.

530

00:55:49,420 --> 00:55:59,420

Shackleton too pushes forward. After battling across 800 miles of open sea for two weeks, he finally reaches the island of South Georgia.

531

00:56:00,420 --> 00:56:09,420

But of course, it wasn't over for Shackleton then. He had to go back and save the people on Elephant Island.

532

00:56:09,420 --> 00:56:16,420

Shackleton strives tirelessly for four months to break back through the frozen sea.

533

00:56:19,420 --> 00:56:22,420

At last, he approaches Elephant Island.

534

00:56:23,420 --> 00:56:31,420

And as he's going ashore, the men on the island are seeing that their rescue boat is here and they're starting to come out from under the shelter.

535

00:56:31,420 --> 00:56:38,420

And Shackleton is counting one, two, three, four, all the way up until he's counted everyone.

536

00:56:43,420 --> 00:56:48,420

And he looks to, wordsily, and says, they're all there, they're all alive.

537

00:56:48,420 --> 00:56:54,420

And the emotion that he had at that time had to be just overwhelming.

538

00:56:59,420 --> 00:57:09,420

To bring everybody and his expedition back home alive was probably one of the greatest adventure achievements that we have in our history books.

539

00:57:10,420 --> 00:57:19,420

On board the Agullus II, the crew hunting down Shackleton's wreck has suffered a major blow.

540

00:57:23,420 --> 00:57:30,420

Thirty hours into the dive, the AUV that's scanning the sea floor has gone missing.

541

00:57:30,420 --> 00:57:34,420

The multi-million dollar machine has likely located the wreck.

542

00:57:35,420 --> 00:57:40,420

But AUV operators Devon and Blake have lost contact with it.

543

00:57:40,420 --> 00:57:44,420

If they can't reconnect, they'll never find out what's below.

544

00:57:54,420 --> 00:57:56,420

The AUV could be anywhere.

545

00:57:58,420 --> 00:58:01,420

And temperatures are dropping fast.

546

00:58:02,420 --> 00:58:05,420

The ice flows are closing in.

547

00:58:10,420 --> 00:58:14,420

As conditions worsen, the team makes a difficult call.

548

00:58:21,420 --> 00:58:24,420

It's tough to search for an AUV in this kind of situation.

549

00:58:25,420 --> 00:58:29,420

You know, mother nature, you know, at some point puts her foot down and lets you know who's boss.

550

00:58:32,420 --> 00:58:38,420

For now, the team halts their mission and reluctantly heads home.

551

00:58:42,420 --> 00:58:47,420

We were always up against the ice. That was always the enemy for us, just as it was for Shackleton.

552

00:58:48,420 --> 00:58:51,420

And yeah, it's beating us also.

553

00:59:01,420 --> 00:59:10,420

Three years later, undeterred by the same freezing season howling winds that defeated both Shackleton and the team on their previous attempt,

554

00:59:10,420 --> 00:59:14,420

the Agullus II returns on a new expedition.

555

00:59:15,420 --> 00:59:18,420

This time, the crew realizes their dream.

556

00:59:21,420 --> 00:59:25,420

One of the most remarkable stories of survival and determination.

557

00:59:25,420 --> 00:59:29,420

Ten thousand feet below the surface of Antarctica's Waddell Sea.

558

00:59:29,420 --> 00:59:33,420

The secret the ocean has kept hidden for over 100 years.

559

00:59:39,420 --> 00:59:45,420

They find the endurance, resting on the sea floor nearly two miles down.

560

00:59:45,420 --> 00:59:54,420

As Menses anticipated, the ship is largely intact, standing upright its wood well preserved by the cold.

561

00:59:59,420 --> 01:00:02,420

The team leaves the wreck untouched.

562

01:00:03,420 --> 01:00:12,420

Endurance remains in its final resting place, a chilling monument to the singular courage of Ernest Shackleton and his men.

563

01:00:15,420 --> 01:00:22,420

Whenever I'm out there in a tricky situation, climbing or where things might not be going my way,

564

01:00:22,420 --> 01:00:33,420

I take a bit of Shackleton and I plug it in and I'm like, yeah, Mr. Ernest Shackleton, he would persevere.

565

01:00:34,420 --> 01:00:38,420

And that is the power of Shackleton's story.

566

01:00:39,420 --> 01:00:55,420

Shackleton resonates today because of keeping his men together, keeping morale up, doing the impossible and then saving them.

567

01:00:55,420 --> 01:00:57,420

That's endurance.

568

01:01:00,420 --> 01:01:03,420

The astonishing story of the endurance.

569

01:01:04,420 --> 01:01:09,420

Its loss at sea and its recent discovery inspires the world.

570

01:01:09,420 --> 01:01:16,420

Like Shackleton himself and his men, the team on the Agullus II refused to give up.

571

01:01:16,420 --> 01:01:22,420

And now after a century, we finally know the last chapter in this mystery.

572

01:01:22,420 --> 01:01:27,420

Shackleton's lost ice ship is lost no more.

573

01:01:27,420 --> 01:01:33,420

I'm Lawrence Fishburne and thanks for watching History's Greatest Mysteries.